

continued till two of the seven were cut in pieces, and Captain  
himself wounded in four places, after he had killed seven of the  
twenty with his own hand, and the rest of the twenty all but two were  
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**ACCOUNT**  
of a Remarkable  
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**SEA-FIGHT,**  
and in other parts of his body to beat him black and blue. A piece  
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**Between**  
**An English Ketch, and a French Privateer**  
From Aboard the *Borda Frigate, or the Spie Head.*  
April 19. 1698.  
29. April. 1698.  
S. I. R.

**I** Send you this in return of several kind Letters which are accep-  
table to us remote from the News of the Town. 'Tis true, it is  
an Account of a small loss we have receiv'd; yet when you con-  
sider the Bravery of the Resistance, and how dear bought the  
Victory was to the Enemy, you will find it to be a Relation fit for  
publick view, to shew the Gallantry of our *English* Courage.

Captain Robert Audley Commander of the *King Fisher Ketch*, carry-  
ing twenty four Men, and four Guns, was sent by our Admiral from the  
Fleet here riding, to fetch the press Men that lay at *Plymouth*. In his  
course, he was met by a *French Privateer*, of eighteen Guns and six  
Petterero's, off of *Weymouth*. The Privateer put out *Dutch* Colours at  
first, so that Captain Audley never suspected him to be a *French* Man,  
till he came up just with him, at what time the Privateer put up his  
*French* Colours; and then Captain Audley found his mistake. However  
perceiving there was no way to avoid a Vessel that say'd better then he  
did, the Captain resolv'd to defend himself as well as he could. The *French*  
man being as I said before an Excellent Sayle, put off the Ketch from  
the Shore to make fire of her; and so the Fight began about four of  
the Clock in the Afternoon, and continu'd till almost nine: During  
which time the *Frenchman* Boarded the Ketch no less than four times, but  
was every time beat off with much loss, till at length of twenty four  
Men and the Captain, there were no more than seven Men left that  
were able to Maintain the Fight.

When the Ketch was thus disabl'd, the Privateer Boarded the Cap-  
tain a fifth time, and leaving twenty Men a Board, put off again. Now  
began another hot Contest between the twenty and the seven; which  
continu'd

(2.)

continu'd till two of the seven were cut in pieces, and Captain *Audley* himself wounded in four places, after he had kill'd seven of the twenty with his own hand, and the rest of the twenty all but two, were kill'd by the few left in the Ketch, and then it was, and not before, that the *French Privateer* Boarding the Ketch the last time, and cutting all his Men, the wounded Captain and his poor five Men were forced to yield to fresh Sailants and superior number. What loss the *Privateer* received, we cannot understand, but considering the loss of the *English*, it is not to be question'd, but that he paid dear for the purchase of a little Ketch.

When Captain *Audley* was taken, the *Privateer* impatient of the Mischiefe he had received, asked him, how he had the Impudence to fight such a Ship as his was, and in the height of his passion, was so ungenerous as to fall upon Captain *Audley* with his Cane, and to bestow so many hard blows upon him, as to set his Wounds a bleeding a fresh, and in other parts of his Body to beat him black and blew. A piece of insulting Tyranny, which most *French Privateer* would have been guilty of. Nevertheless we must say this for the *Privateer*, that when the heat of his fury was over, he stood to his word, and before he sent Captain *Audley* on shore at St. Malo's, he gave him his blew Suit back again to keep him warm in the Goal, because he had fought so bravely; and was so kind to his own Reputation, that to excuse the loss he had received, he reported to the Honour of the *English*, that never Men fought better in the World; as by a Letter from St. Malo's, is attested by several Merchants upon the place, who offered six *French* Mates for his Ransom, but they would not be taken, twelve Cowardly *French* Mates not being a true value for one Valiant *English* Captain.

He is at this present in the Castle of St. Malo's, and the four Men that brought the News, being since redeemed, are now in *Roussillon*, and the Rear Admiral of the Red Squadron, is taking all the Care he can to obtain the Liberty of the Captain himself, with some other Friends.

This Account I could not forbear to give you for the Honour of my Brother *Robert*, since you know us both, Remaining your humble Servant.

*John Audley*

If any person desire to be further satisfy'd in the Truth of the Relation the Printer will direct where they may see the Original Letter, and to be contradicted.

LONDON

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When the Ketch was boarded, the *Privateer* boarded the Captain's fifth time, and as twenty Men a board, but off again. Now began another hot Contest between the twenty and the seven, which